22 Hopkinton Aug 28 1832.

To the members of the Pine St Church & Congregation.

Dear Brethren & Friends

The invitation ~~which you, through~~ to become ~~Pastor~~ your Pastor & Minister which you, through your Committe have seen fit to extend to me, has been made the subject of serious & prayerful consideration, ~~the result of which is that it is my duty to accept of it. Permit me then hereby to signify my acceptance of the same. In~~ As a result of such consideration ~~permit me to state that~~ I have come to the conclusion that it is my duty to comply with your wishes & would therefore hereby signify to you my acceptance of the same.

In coming to such a conclusion I cannot but believe that I have interpreted the indications of divine Providence aright & that my labors among you will therefore be crowned by the divine blessing. At least ~~I am certain that no other consideration, want~~ with my youth, my want of experience &c I should not dare to place myself in a situation of such importance, had not God in his Providence seemed to have plainly marked it out as duty. It has ever been a maxim with me that God never devolves ~~certain~~ duties on his friends without intending at the same time to give them all that direction & grace which will enable them to discharge them to his acceptance & honor, as well as with success & With this maxim therefore in view ~~& believing also that he has plainly made it my duty to come among you~~ I feel ready to enter upon the discharge of a field of labor ~~duties~~ from which I should otherwise shrink, ~~believing that~~

fully persuaded that the same God which I trust has called me to this field of labor, will ~~give me all~~ aid & sustain & bless me in all the duties that shall devolve upon me in it.

~~I am aware that~~ You invite me you say "to take charge of a Missionary enterprise" rather than "a large & wealthy church" an enterprise therefore which calls for arduous labor on the part of the Pastor, both as it respects the business of preaching & Pastoral visitation. ~~I trust I am fully aware of this~~ Whether I shall fully meet your expectations in this respect remains yet to be seen. Be this as it may, I have no hesitation in saying that you probably ~~know~~ do not feel the importance of incessant & untiring labor in both these respects ~~than~~ more fully than I do. This consideration alone has led me at times almost to shrink from the undertaking ~~to which you~~, but then I have remembered my maxim - that with the duty God will give the strength & assistance necessary for its discharge - Besides, I have been not a little emboldened to enter upon it by the consideration that you do not invite me "to Engage in this Enterprise singlehanded," but that you "pledge" me your "Cooperation & support & Engage also continually to remember me in your prayers". In the hope ~~that this~~ & belief that this pledge will be most fully redeemed, I cannot but believe that my hands will be stayed up & that the blessing of God our Savior will crown our united labors with abundant success -

Now further express your pleasure ~~in~~ the belief that I am disposed to call no man master in regard to my views of religious truth. On this topic, permit to say that in the fullest sense, I do but bow with reverence to the authority of the Scriptures" "Call no man master" in this matter. But while I say this I do not mean to say that ~~all~~ the deductions of enlightened

& unbiased reason or what is the same, of plain unsophisticated common sense are to be set aside as useless or worse than useless. On the contrary I regard them as of vast importance - not indeed by way of authority; ~~In this latter the~~ for here the Bible claims preeminence & stands alone; but as a means of illustrating & explaining ~~& defending~~ the authoritative doctrines of the Bible & defending them also against the cavils & objections of the sceptic & unbeliever.

And herein in saying that I call no man master in this matter, I mean not simply that I hold myself at liberty to differ from any man whose opinions seem to me to be erroneous; but that I equally hold myself at liberty to agree with any man, whatever his name, or whatever the opinion of others may be of him, & to agree with just so far as his views seem to me to be according to the truth.

In conclusion then
In regard to the conditions of settlement, I wish to propose no alterations. ~~further than to~~ I would however request a reservation of four weeks annually as a vacation from my labors should my health or other circumst render it expedient ~~the pulpit in the mean during which I am willing to see the pulpit supplied~~ Should you be disposed to grant my request it will of course be received with gratitude.

Praying that God our Savior will ~~sanction~~ continue ~~crown~~ our anticipated connexion with the richest ~~spiritual~~ blessings of his grace I remain

yrs in the fellowship of the gospel

Amos A Phelps

Answer to the
Invitation to
Pine 5th Augst 28. 1832.